

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I had a previously scheduled meeting with constituents in Champaign County Illinois and was unable to attend votes this evening. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" and "yea" on H.R. 1141, the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act and H.R. 3117, the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2011.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3261

Mr. ROSS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 3261.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER
MOTION TO INSTRUCT CON-
FEREES ON H.R. 3630, TEM-
PORARY PAYROLL TAX CUT
CONTINUATION ACT OF 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, under rule XXII, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 3630, the conference report to extend payroll tax, unemployment insurance, and sustainable growth rate payments for doctors.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mrs. Capps moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 3630 be instructed to file a conference report not later than February 17, 2012.

□ 1910

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3261

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 3261.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3261

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3261.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3609

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, due to a clerical error, I ask that the name of the gentleman from Michigan, JUSTIN AMASH, be removed as a cosponsor from H.R. 3609.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

MARCH FOR LIFE

(Mr. FLEISCHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I was honored to speak at the March for Life today at the rally on the National Mall earlier today. Thousands of Americans came together in our cause to protect the sanctity of all human life and voice our continued opposition to the decision made in *Roe v. Wade*.

I am reminded each and every day now how precious life is and why we should stand up for its intrinsic value. It is our belief that life is sacred from the moment of conception until the grave.

That separates us from so many others in the world. Every abortion is a tragedy, but being pro-life isn't just about conception to birth, it's about the entire existence of a person. It encompasses more than just their physical well-being. A soul cannot flourish, a person cannot prosper if they aren't first allowed to live. Being pro-life is also promoting faith, education, jobs and the overall quality of life.

I will continue to fight against the culture of abortion and fight for the right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

CENTER AISLE CAUCUS

(Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I'm so grateful that as we prepare to receive the President tomorrow night for his State of the Union Address that we're going to be joined by our colleague, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS. The courage that she has shone in her long recovery has been an inspiration to all of us, and I'm proud to call her a friend.

Last year, in the aftermath of that terrible and tragic shooting, we came together as a Congress for the State of the Union. We put aside our partisan differences, and we convened as a united body. Republicans sat with Democrats, conservative Members sat with liberal Members. It was a small but symbolic gesture that this place can rise above partnership for the greater good of this Nation.

As cochair of the House's Center Aisle Caucus, I, along with my fellow cochairs are calling on this House to do it again. Tomorrow night, let's sit together, let's show the Nation again that with GABBY in our midst we can be one rather than be divided. Now our small but growing caucus brings together Members who believe that we can discuss issues in a civil and respectful manner. I hope that all of you, all of my colleagues, will join us in an effort to build on the success of last year and start a new bipartisanship tradition in this House.

HONORING FORMER ILLINOIS REP-
RESENTATIVE EDWARD
DERWINSKI

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to report the passing of former Illinois Representative Edward Derwinski.

Congressman Derwinski dedicated his life to public service, including 24 years here in the House serving Illinois' Fourth District from 1959 to 1983. He passed away on January 15 at the age of 85. Perhaps best known for his colorful and engaging personality, he went on to serve as the Undersecretary of State for National Security Affairs, and in 1989 he led efforts to renew our country's commitment to its veterans as first ever Secretary for Veterans Affairs.

President George H.W. Bush once said of Ed, a former infantryman in World War II, that he had the skill of a seasoned legislator, the patience of a practiced administrator, the finesse of a diplomat, and the heart of a man who knows what it means to start his government career as a private in the United States Army.

Today I join my colleagues in the Illinois delegation in honoring his service to our State and Nation. My thoughts and prayers are with all those who knew him best, especially his wife, Bonnie; son, Michael; daughter, Maureen; stepdaughter, Maggie; stepson, Kevin; sister, Bernadette; and his seven grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY MASTER
SERGEANT JOHN F. BAKER, JR.

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Friday retired Army Master Sergeant John F. Baker, Jr., a recipient of the Medal of Honor, died at the age of 66.

Master Sergeant Baker was a native of Davenport, Iowa, before relocating to South Carolina. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Donnell, and the Baker family. Master Sergeant Baker served in Vietnam and received the Medal of Honor after braving intense Communist fire to save the lives of eight American soldiers on November 5, 1966.

Master Sergeant Baker was one of 239 servicemembers to receive our Nation's highest honor for conspicuous gallantry and courage during their service in the Vietnam War. He was also the last Army soldier to be awarded the Medal of Honor and have residency in South Carolina.

Our country is very grateful for the service of Master Sergeant John Baker. He went well beyond the call of duty, sacrificing so much for this great Nation, and will be remembered as a true